1: Raswan T-3 (1913-35) 1947 MD4 Rwala MD4

sidering his position, should contemplate such action seemed to me on the face of it unlikely, and the show of evidence was not good enough; it was too much like rumour.

The matter was discussed at length in council. The Amir's half-brother, Mijhem, expressed his conviction that there was grave danger of a trap, and urged the utmost wariness. His plan was that Fuaz should set out with a single chosen attendant skilled in spying, and stop a safe distance this side of Rutbah. There Fuaz should keep in hiding while his companion made his way unobtrusively into the fortress in order to ascertain the truth of the situation. My advice was different. I suggested to Fuaz that he should leave Rutbah severely alone and go right on to Baghdad, to negotiate with the British high authorities directly. Mijhem spoke against my counsel, and Amir Fuaz rejected it.

The upshot of it all was the adoption of Mijhem's plan. Fuaz started by motor-car for Rutbah immediately after the council, taking with him Mijhem himself. For the time of his absence, the Amir transferred the command of the tribe to his uncle, Tra'd ibn Sattam. The same day word came from our rear that the tail of the Ruala had also crossed the border, so that the whole nomad nation was now in Syria.

Every day the whole tribe must shift camp. When I got up at the first rays of the sun, this was already in progress. The camel-herd was gone from my tent row. The spacious abodes of our temporary leader, Tra'd ibn Sattam, and his three sons had been taken down, slaves